

Spirituality and spiritual care in Iran: nurses' perceptions and barriers

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Aim: This study aimed to explore the perception of Iranian nurses concerning spiritual care and to reveal any confronted barriers.

Background: Although the context of spiritual care is a substantial aspect of holistic care, the delivery of spiritual care has been problematic due to lack of nurses' understanding of this concept.

Introduction: Nurses' perceptions of spirituality and spiritual care directly influence their performance as well as their relationships with patients.

Methods: This cross-sectional survey was conducted in 2013 with 259 nurses working in hospitals affiliated with Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Iran. Data were collected using the Spirituality and Spiritual Care Rating Scale alongside qualitative open-ended questions. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for the quantitative data and content analysis for the qualitative data.

Results: The overall average for spirituality and spiritual care was 2.84 (score range: 1–4), indicating a moderate mean score. A significant relationship was found between education level and spiritual care. The majority of participants believed that they did not receive enough training in this aspect of care. The main obstacles regarding delivering spiritual care included busy working schedules, insufficient knowledge regarding spiritual care, low motivation, diversity of patients' spiritual needs and feeling 'unqualified' to provide spiritual cares.

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Conflict of interest

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